

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the specification, as follows:

Page 1, line 1, replace the title paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

TYRE FOR A VEHICLE WHEEL INCLUDING A  
TREAD-BAND PATTERN FOR WINTER TIRES

Page 1, line 3, delete the paragraph “Description” in its entirety:

Page 1, line 4, add the following paragraph in the form of a section heading after the title “TYRE FOR A VEHICLE WHEEL INCLUDING A TREAD-BAND PATTERN” and prior to the paragraph beginning “The present invention relates to a tyre . . . .”

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

Page 1, line 4, add the following new paragraph after the heading “CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS” added above and prior to the paragraph beginning “The present invention relates to a tyre . . . .”

This application is a national-phase entry under 35 U.S.C. § 371 from International Application No. PCT/IT2002/000814, filed December 19, 2002, in the Italian Patent Office, the content of which is relied upon and incorporated herein by reference.

Page 1, line 4, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading after the cross-reference to related applications added above and prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “The present invention relates to a tyre . . . .”

#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, line 4, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section subheading after the heading “BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION” added above and prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “The present invention relates to a tyre . . . .”

##### Field of the Invention

Page 1, line 13, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section subheading prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “By winter tyre it is intended . . . .”

##### Description of the Related Art

Page 3, line 18, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “In this connection the Applicant . . . .”

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 5, line 30, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “Further features and advantages . . . .”

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 6, line 21, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “Referring particularly to the above drawings . . . .”

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

Add a new page 40 after the claims, adding the following ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE. A new, separate page 40 including the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE is enclosed.

#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A tyre for a vehicle wheel includes a tread band. The tread band includes a pattern, including at least two circumferential portions, an elongated ridge, and at least two shoulder

blocks. The at least two circumferential portions are disposed in axial side-by-side relationship. At least one of the circumferential portions includes a first geometric module repeated along a circumferential extension direction of the tyre. The elongated ridge is bounded by two grooves oblique to the circumferential extension direction and is divided into a plurality of intermediate blocks with respect to an axial extension direction of the tread band. The intermediate blocks are bounded by a plurality of cuts substantially transverse to the elongated ridge. The at least two shoulder blocks are associated with the elongated ridge, are circumferentially aligned along a side edge of the tread band, and are bounded by grooves oriented substantially transversely to the circumferential extension direction.